

THE FRIENDS OF LONG MELFORD CHURCH BUILDING TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1069008

Dear Friends

December 2021



It is now 2 years since we wrote a newsletter to you. We apologise for this but due to lockdown in March 2020, like everything, FLMCBT activities ground to a halt. We trust you have stayed well and safe during these unsettling times.

This October the Trustees were able to hold their first meeting since February 2020, hopefully life will now get back to something like normal.

Sadly we must report that our long time treasurer, Ed Hawkins, passed away earlier this year aged 90.

The Patrick Kohler Memorial Concert also fell victim to the pandemic, as life returns we are planning on holding this in September 2022. Further details will be given nearer the time, we hope you may be able to attend.

After not being able to hold the Annual Public Meeting this year, we are planning to hold our next Annual Public Meeting in June 2022.

The Medieval Windows

In our last newsletter we informed you that the work on the windows had at long last began. The first window, over the North Door, was completed to which the Friends donated all of the cost of £69,250.00 to the PCC. It was then planned in 2020 for two more windows for which we had funds to be restored, conserved and isothermal glazing fitted, this was thwarted by the pandemic. Our investment, in the W.B.Clopton Medieval Window Fund, took a nosedive as well at the time meaning if the work could have proceeded we would have been able at best to cover the cost of one window. The good news is that the investments have recovered strongly and are now around pre-pandemic levels. We now await the PCC to recommence the project.

Clopton Family Association

We reported that we were planning the Clopton Reunion in Long Melford for June 2020. Yet another event that fell by the wayside. However, in recognition of the organisational work involved many of the Americans forwent all or part of their deposits, so we received a substantial donation from the CFA. In correspondence with the CFA officers it has been decided to aim for 2024 for the next Reunion in England as this will coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the first CFA Reunion in Long Melford. Whilst we will dust off the shelved 2020 plans, it is intended to make this a “special event” to commemorate this Ruby Anniversary.

Our thanks go to our fellow Trustee’s, especially Vince Chandler our Honorary Treasurer, who has managed to keep our finances in order, during these difficult times.

We thank you for your continuing support in helping the Friends assist the PCC to maintain the fabric of **Holy Trinity Church**. We am sure you appreciate maintaining a 700 year old building is a tremendous challenge, the next big project for the PCC is the Clerestory, the iron bars supporting the windows are corroding, resulting in damage to the surrounding masonry.

With best wishes for the New Year.

John Watts
Hon. Chairman

Richard Michette
Hon. Secretary

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